

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in reply to the Office Action of February 27, 2007. Therefore, the time period for reply extends up to and includes May 27, 2007. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the Examiner's careful review and consideration of the present application.

Claim Rejection Under 35 USC § 103

In the subject Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent Application 2003/0035495 (Laamanen). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, in order to move prosecution forward, Applicants have canceled claim 1 above without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection is rendered moot and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form above, while claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 2. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 2-4 are now in condition for allowance.

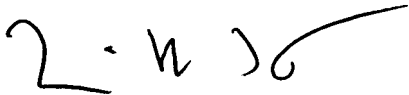
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

7 May 2007
Date





Brian H. Batzli
Reg. No. 32,960
Merchant & Gould P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.336.4755